

Scientologist 'Spies' in the A.M.A.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 (AP) — Leaders of the Church of Scientology thought of the American Medical Association and the National Institute of Mental Health as enemies and infiltrated the medical association to discredit it, according to documents made public Thursday.

The documents, seized in a raid by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at two Scientology offices in Los Angeles in 1977, were released by Federal District Judge Charles R. Richey. They assert that members of the controversial church planted spies and had a "doom program" aimed at the A.M.A.

Church leaders also planned to "take over control" of the National Institute of Mental Health near Washington, according to the documents.

The Rev. Kenneth Whitman, the church's president, said in a statement that release of the documents "will tell nothing about the actual workings" of the church. "We have said we do not condone violations of law or established church creed by our own members," the statement said, "but by these same standards we deplore the cover-up and nonprosecution of Government agency criminal acts and conspiracy against our church and others who have been on 'government enemies lists.'"

Several medical organizations have criticized the church for its program of "dianetics," which the church terms therapy for certain mental and psychosomatic illnesses. According to other documents, Scientologists had copies of communications from William Colby, the former Director of Central Intelligence, and reports of confidential conversations among United States Attorneys who were trying a civil case against the church.

The church describes itself as "an applied religious philosophy which believes that man is a spiritual being who is basically good," and, through counseling, "can better deal with his own life and take responsibility for the world around him."

Church leaders were also said to have had files on Federal judges and copies of tax returns filed by Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles and Frank Sinatra.

Last Friday, Judge Richey found eight church leaders guilty of conspiring to steal Government documents. A ninth church member was convicted of a theft as a misdemeanor. Earlier last week, the judge released documents said to provide details on thefts by the church of documents from the Internal Revenue Service, the United States Attorney's office and the the Justice Department.